

REMARKS

Original claims 1-54 are canceled without prejudice to their continued prosecution in a continuation and/or divisional application.

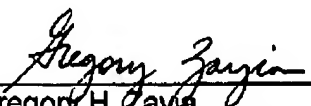
New claim 55 is supported by original claims 1 and 16 and by the description in the specification (e.g., paragraphs 84, 91, 97, 99-100, 104, etc.). New claims 56-76 are supported by original claims 2-15 and 17-23, respectively. New claim 77 is supported by original claims 24 and 16 and by the description in the specification (e.g., paragraphs 84, 91, 97, 99-100, 104, etc.). No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 55-77 are present and active in the application.

In accordance with the Examiner's telephone request, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer of their co-pending Application Serial No. 10/336,624, filed January 3, 2003.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the above Amendment and Remarks do not put the claims in condition to be allowed, and that a further discussion would be helpful, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent directly at (312)-321-4257.

Respectfully submitted,



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